

THIS PLACE MAKES ME
THINK OF THE DEVIL.

HE FLEW TOO HIGH AND BURNT
HIS WINGS, THEN FALLING HE
LOST HIS FAITH IN EVERYTHING

THE GREAT TRENCH
WAY.

JUST LIKE
ME.

THE GREAT BODY HARVEST IS MORE
LIKE IT...

ONE SIDE THROWS BODIES AGAINST A WALL OF BULLETS, THEN BACK AND
FORTH.

THIS WAR MACHINE IS OBSOLETE

THE TRENCH OFFERS NO
SAFETY.... A DEMON LIVES
IN THE TRENCH WITH US.

HE TAUGHT ME
HOW TO SURVIVE...

TEAR A HOLE EXQUISITE RED.
FUCK THE REST AND STAB
IT DEAD!

I'M BROKEN, BRUISED, FORGOTTEN, SORE,

AND TOO FUCKED UP
TO CARE
ANYMORE

BUT NOW I'M HEADED HOME.
"BEREAVEMENT LEAVE" IT'S
CALLED.

MY WIFE WAS PREGNANT
WHEN I LEFT THREE
YEARS AGO.

I'M GUESSING THAT
THE SON I HAVE NEVER
KNOWN IS NOW DEAD.

"BEREAVEMENT LEAVE" MEANS SOMEONE
DIED....

AT LEAST THERE'S HER. AT LEAST I
CAN SEE HER AGAIN...

THE MAID ANSWERED
THE DOOR.

SIR?

HELLO, WHERE IS
MOLLY?

SIR.... SHE'S DEAD....

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE....MY
MOLLY....

SHE'D HUNG HERSELF OVER A MONTH AGO...

SHE LEFT ME
A NOTE.

THE NOTE WAS OPENED AND IT
READ "TRIED TO SAY, TRIED TO ASK.
I NEEDED TO, ALL ALONE BY
MYSELF. WHERE WERE YOU?"

"YOU'LL NOTICE IN THE BACK YARD, A TINY
HEAD STONE, OUR SON IS DEAD. HE DIED AT
BIRTH. I KNEW YOU WANTED A SON MORE
THAN ANYTHING"



"I STAYED FAITHFUL
EVEN THOUGH I SLEPT WITH
TWO OTHERS WHILE YOU
WERE AWAY"

"IT WASN'T LOVE OR
LUST. I WANTED YOU
TO COME HOME TO A
SON BUT THEY ALL DIED"

"WHERE WERE YOU?"



"I THINK ITS FUNNY HOW
EVERYTHING YOU SWORE WOULD
NEVER CHANGE IS DIFFERENT
NOW... A FAMILY... A LONG
LIFE TOGETHER"

"WHERE THE FUCK WERE
YOU!?"



IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I READ THE THINGS SHE SAID, AND ALL OF MY INSIDES
FEEL COLD AND GRAY.

I'D PAY ANYTHING TO BE WITH
YOU, MOLLY.

TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS ALL WHILE KNOWING
TOMORROW, I WILL BE SENT BACK TO THE TRENCH
... I'D PAY ANYTHING...

... AND IT'S THE SWEETEST
PRICE I'LL HAVE TO PAY...

... TODAY.... THE WHOLE
WORLD GOES AWAY.

I SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T TOSS
YOUR LIFE AWAY CASUALLY,
BUT STILL...

SUCH A THING AS LIFE
IS FAR TOO....

FRAIL.

SO, TODD, LET'S MAKE THIS EASY,
HMM? WE'LL SKIP JUDGEMENT AND I'LL
TAKE YOU TO HELL NOW.

HELL?!

OTHER? I I
WAS JUST FOLLOWING
ORDERS...

THERE'S THE SUICIDE
FOR STARTERS... THEN THAT
OTHER THING.



LOOK, I
JUST WANT TO SEE
MY MOLLY AGAIN.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON
I CAME.

DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL SEE
HER. SHE'S IN HELL AS WE
SPEAK.

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED
WHEN YOU DISCOVER
WHAT SHE'S DONE.

NO, THAT CAN'T BE! MY
MOLLY DOESN'T BELONG IN HELL!

TELL ME HOW
YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE THERE'S A THING CALLED
DESTINY AND FATE. OUR LIVES WERE
WRITTEN FOR US. IT'S NOT OUR FAULT.

THAT'S A USEFUL
EXCUSE. YOU'VE DONE
NOTHING WRONG. IT WAS
DESTINY. IT WAS FATE...

DON'T MOCK ME!!

TAKE IT UP WITH
THE MANAGEMENT, MY FRIEND.

FINE!! I'LL TAKE IT
TO THE GOD DAMNED,
DEVIL HIMSELF!

YOU'RE GOING TO TALK
TO THE DEVIL ABOUT FATE
AND DESTINY....?

YES.

HMPF...

HA HAHA
HAHA HA!

WELL SHIT, LET ME
GET YOU ON YOUR
WAY, THEN!

HUH??



АHHHHH!!

АHHH!!

NO!!

REWORKS!!

THEY'RE JUST A
REFLECTION!

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER
OF ALL THE WHAT-
ABOUTS, OF ALL THE
MIGHT-HAVE, COULD HAVE BEENS

AND NOW YOU'RE
ONE OF US.....

THE
WRETCHED!

YOUR HOPES AND PRAYS OF
BETTER DAYS AND FAR AWAYS?

FORGET
IT!

IT DIDN'T TURN OUT THE WAY
YOU WANTED IT, DID IT?

Now! You know this is what
it feels like

I WAS ONE OF
THEM

I JOINED IN THEIR DANCE, PARTICIPATED
IN THEIR ORGY...

YEARS UNDER KANE'S
SHADOW. WHAT ELSE COULD
I DO?

YOU'RE WASTING
TIME!

I HAVE FOUND YOUR
MOLLY, YOU MUST RUN!
NOW!

WHAT!?

RUN!!

I RAN.

JACK COVERED MY ESCAPE...



BROTHER...

KANE.

I WAS SENT TO GET
HIM. TO BRING HIM OUT OF HERE.

SENT BY WHOM?

SOMEONE THE
BOTH OF US KNOW
BETTER THAN TO
SAY "NO" TO.

WHAT WOULD HE WANT WITH
THAT ONE...?

HE WANTS TO
SEE, HE SAID.

WANTS TO SEE IF TODD
WILL REALLY COME TO
HIM.

I AM TO PUSH TODD
ONWARD.

MOLLY...?

TOOD?

MOLLY!

GO AWAY. YOU CAN'T
BE NEAR ME.

I'VE BECOME
IMPOSSIBLE.

I CAME
HERE AFTER
YOU TO BE
WITH YOU.

AS LOST AS I GET, I WILL
FIND YOU. THE DEEPER THE WOUND, I'M
INSIDE YOU.

YOU AND ME, WE'RE IN THIS
TOGETHER NOW.

PLEASE... GO
AWAY.

I PRAYED FOR STRONG, HEALTHY CHILDREN. SONS YOU COULD BE PROUD OF.

BUT EVEN THEN, I COULD HEAR GOD LAUGHING AT ME!!

... I TRIED ANYWAY

BUT I HAD MADE THEM DEFECTIVE.

WHY DID YOU TAKE MY BOYS?!?

WHY DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH ???

IT'S NOT YOU, MOLLY... IT'S FATE.

YOU SHINE IN
THIS WORLD FULL OF
UGLINESSE.

I WON'T LET YOU
FALL APART.

I AM APART.
....OUR DEAD CHILDREN
TODD....

STOP IT.
THAT WASN'T YOUR
FAULT.

YOU WANTED A
BOY AND I DIDN'T
WANT TO FAIL YOU.

THEY DIED AT
BIRTH, MOLLY. YOU CAN'T
BLAME YOURSELF —

THEY DIED BECAUSE
I KILLED THEM!

I KILLED THEM
BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T
WANT A GIRL AND THAT'S
ALL I COULD GIVE
YOU!!



OH, MOLLY...

YOU
HATE
ME...

I COULD NEVER —
IN FACT, I CONFESS
AS WELL, IN THE
WAR...

...I WAS THERE
TOO... I WAS LIKE
YOU WHEN I —

WHAT? WHAT??

OUR
DAUGHTERS...

THEY'VE FOUND
ME.



MOLLY! LET'S GO!!

NO!

I'M THEIR MOTHER. I CAN LOVE THEM.

I CAN SAVE THEM! NO ONE ELSE CAN.

COME TO YOUR MOTHER, GIRLS

OH, MY DAUGHTERS... MY BEAUTIFUL LITTLE WOMEN...

SO MUCH TO TEACH YOU. SO MUCH YOU MUST LEARN ABOUT LIFE, LOVE, AND THE GOLDEN RULE.

... DO ONTO OTHERS... ?

YES! YES, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU GIRLS MUST ALWAYS DO ONTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE DONE ONTO

MOLLY!!

URK!



GIRLS...

JESUS!
MOLLY!

SO... IS HELL
JUST LIKE
YOU
IMAGINED?

WHY MOLLY?
SHE WAS AN
INNOCENT!
STILL
BLAMING
FATE, I SEE

NO ONE IS INNOCENT HERE.

YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY IS COMING THIS WAY. GO.
I WILL MAKE SURE THEY DON'T FOLLOW.

AFTER A WHILE, I NEEDED TO REST. I WOKE UP TO FIND MYSELF STILL IN THE OTHER PLACE.

I WONDER HOW FAR THIS HAS GONE AND JUST HOW DAMAGED HAVE I BECOME...?

YOU...

YOU'RE HURT.

MEH. I'M SORRY. I SHOULD BE GOING.

TO SOME EXTENT, I COULD HEAL YOU. MAKE YOU LOOK AS YOU DID BEFORE THE REWORKS CLAIMED YOU.

THOUGH I CAN'T FIX YOUR EYES...

UH HUM.
AND THE CATCH...?

...BE WITH ME...

ONE LOOK TOLD ME SHE WAS A LONELY OLD HAG.

WELL...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR WOUNDS. YOUR DAMAGE, IT RUNS EVEN DEEPER. AND I CAN MAKE YOU LOOK NORMAL AGAIN.

JUST FOLLOW ME.

FOR BEING IN HELL, HER HOME WAS
NICE. BUILT UPON THE SHORE OF THE STYX.

SHE DIDN'T MAKE A FUSS OR
WASTE TIME. I WAS LED STRAIGHT
TO HER CHAMBERS.



THE LIGHTS WENT DOWN..

AND HER ROBE CAME
OFF.

SHE WAS PRETTY.

I HAVE TO CLOAK MYSELF
DOWN HERE. THE OTHERS WOULD
ASSAULT ME IF THEY SAW...

my GOD, YOU LOOK
JUST LIKE MY MOLLY!

I AM MOLLY. THE OTHER WAS A
SHADE.

YES. YES...

GUT, HOW DID—

NO QUESTIONS,
JUST LOVE
ME.



I LOVED HER.
I REVELED IN
THE MINGLING OF
OUR WARMTH.

AND HER BODY HEALED ME.

WAS WITH HER FULLY
ONCE MORE.

I WAS
HAPPY.

FATE HAD
BROUGHT US
BACK.

SAY IT.

I LOVE
YOU, MOLLY.

YOUR GIRL'S GOT
A PROBLEM...

SHE'S TRYING HARD
TO HIDE.

SHE WANTS YOU TO
STAY FOCUSED ON HER
SURFACE...

BECAUSE EVERYTHING ELSE IS DEAD ON
THE OTHER SIDE.

YOU'RE SLEEPING
WITH VANITY!

YOU
GET OUT!
SHUT UP! I'M
BEAUTIFUL!
BEAUTIFUL!!

DON'T YOU TALK TO MY
WIFE THAT WAY!!

DON'T BELIEVE ME?
I'LL TURN ON THE
LIGHT.

NO! JACK, G
DONT!

GO AHEAD!
THEN YOU'LL
SEE.

DON'T WORRY, MOLLY. I
BELIE --

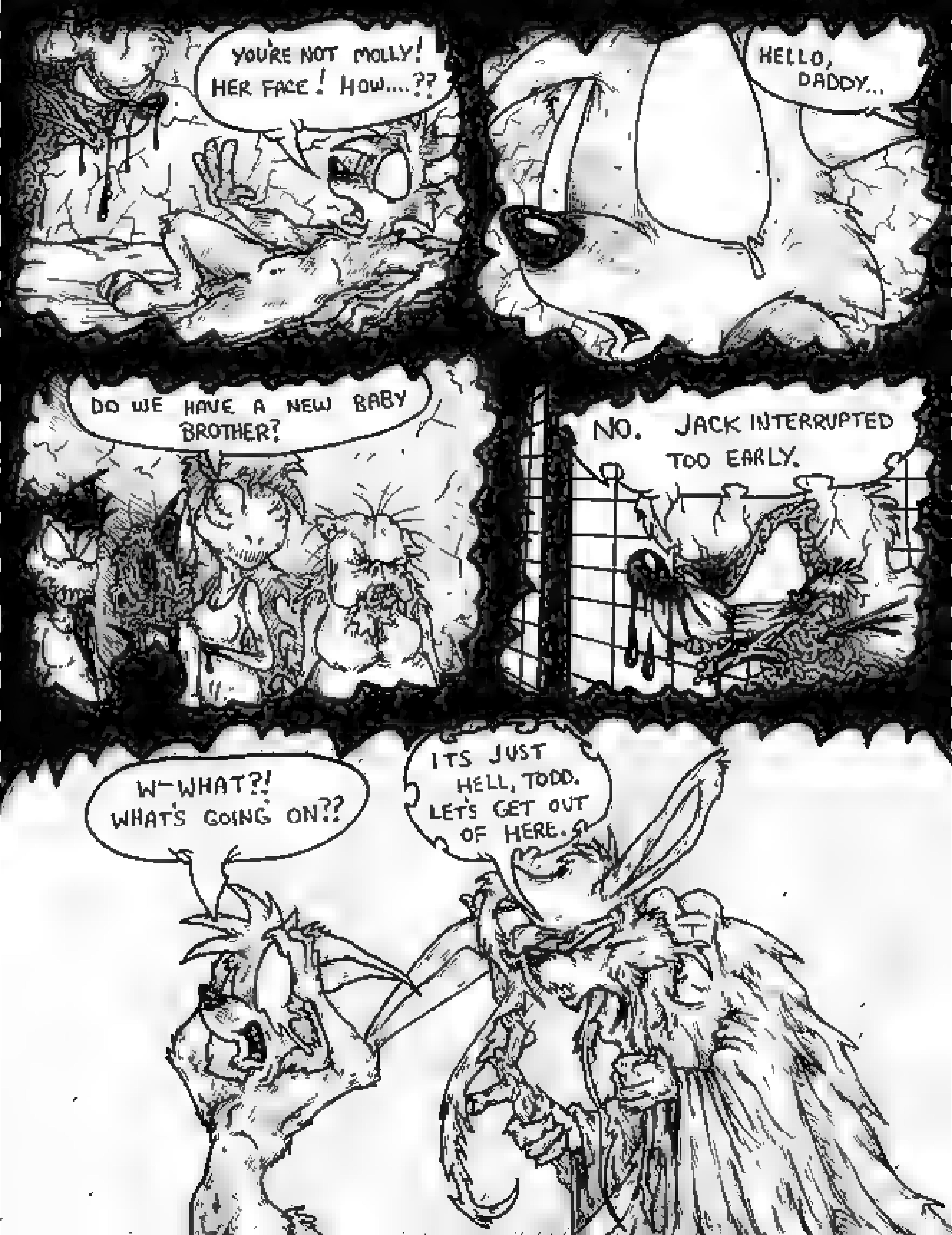
THEN THE LIGHTS
CAME ON.

— MOLLY! YOUR FACE !

WHAT?

AM I STILL
PRETTY...?

...NO.



YOU'RE NOT MOLLY!
HER FACE! HOW...??

HELLO,
DADDY...

DO WE HAVE A NEW BABY
BROTHER?

NO. JACK INTERRUPTED
TOO EARLY.

W-WHAT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON??

IT'S JUST
HELL, TODD.
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE.

I WAS PANICKING

MOLLY BUTCHERED
WITH A FALSE MOLLY
WEARING HER SKIN

AND THAT REAPER FELLOW
WANTING TO TAKE ME
SOMEWHERE I DON'T WANT
TO BE...

AN OLD POEM GAVE
ME MY SOLUTION.

ESCAPE THE SAME
WAY I DID BEFORE.

KILL MYSELF AGAIN.

"AND WHEN THE DAY ARRIVES, I'LL
BECOME THE SKY AND I'LL BECOME THE
SEA..."

AND THE SEA WILL COME TO
KISS ME, FOR I AM GOING HOME"

"I LEAPT INTO
THE STYX

I DESCENDED FROM GRACE IN THE ARMS OF THE UNDERTOW...

I WOULD TAKE MY PLACE IN
THE GREAT BELOW...

THAT IS, UNTIL I SAW THEM.

HUNDREDS OF
EYES!!

NO. NOT HUNDREDS, I
THOUGHT.

EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-TWO PAIRS.

SIR! I COUNT EXACTLY ONE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO.

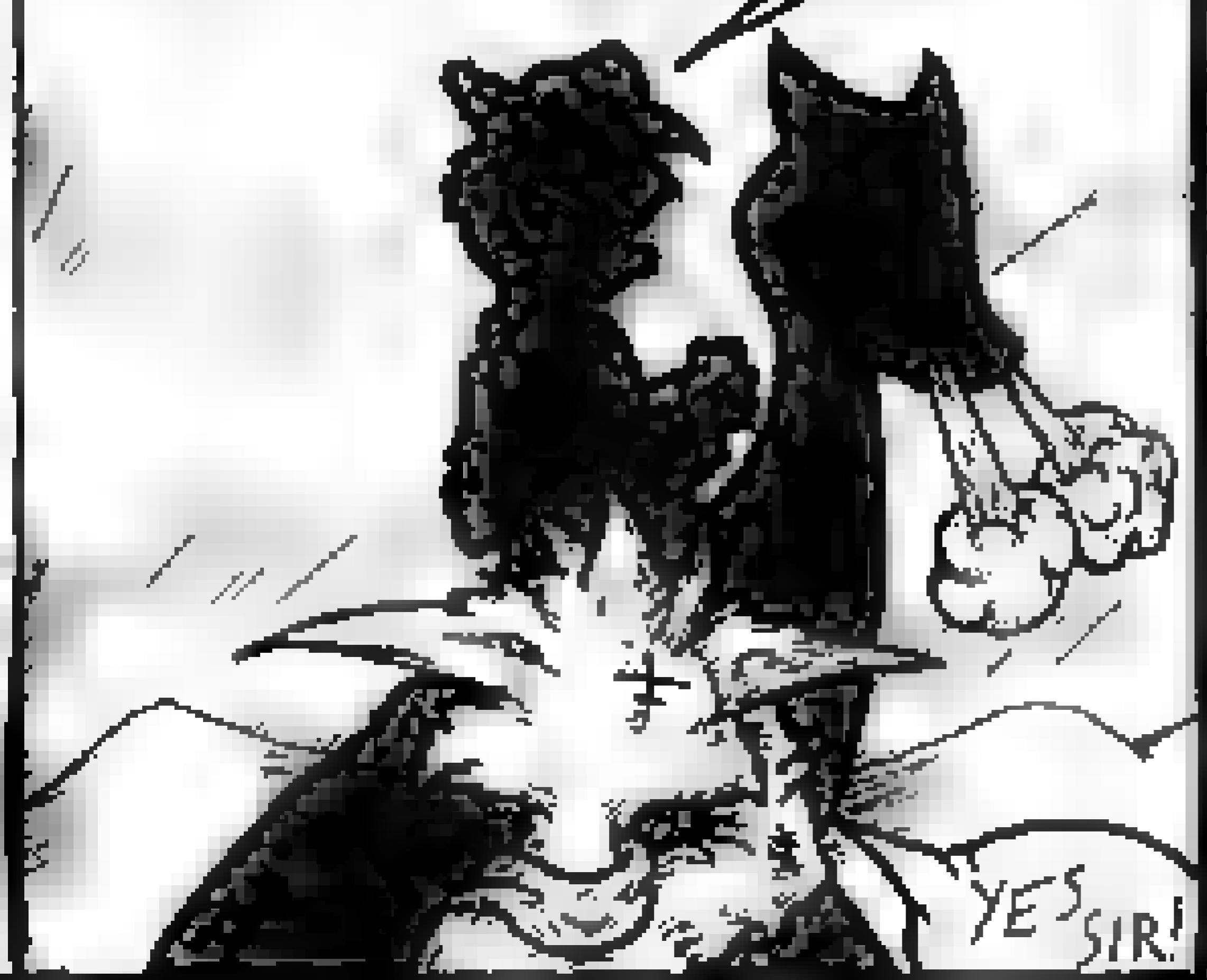
SHOOT THEM, SOLDIER. MAKE SURE NONE SURVIVE.

B-BUT SIR, THEY'RE ONLY-

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SOLDIER?



INDEED, TODD. THEY WILL GROW UP HATING US. WE CAN EITHER HANDLE THIS PROBLEM NOW, OR WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE CAPABLE OF HARMING OUR NATION AND ITS PEOPLE. BESIDES WHICH, YOU ARE UNDER ORDERS.



I SWAM UP AS FAST
AS I COULD.

IF THE CHILDREN MOLLY
KILLED FOLLOWED HER
HERE AND KILLED HER...

THEN THERE IS NO NEED TO GUESS WHAT
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO COULD DO TO
ME.

NO DOUBT FATE KNEW
I WOULD BE COMING AND HAD
THE CHILDREN WAIT FOR
ME

GOOD MORNING.

WHAT'RE YOU
DOING OUT ON THE
STYX?

YOU OKAY?

HOW DID YOU FIX
YOUR EYES..?

I'VE BEEN IN HELL
A LONG TIME. I'VE
NEVER SEEN EYES LIKE
YOURS DOWN HERE.

WHY DON'T YOU COME
ABOARD? WE'RE HEADED
TO THE DOCKS OF THE
NECROPOLIS.

THANK YOU. I'M TODD.

SHE'S REALLY
FROM HEAVEN.
SHE'S JUST VISITING.

I HAVE TAKEN
THE FIRST STEP IN
LEAVING HELL. ADMITTING
GUILT.

YOU WANTED
TO KNOW ABOUT
OUR EYES?

YES.

WHAT'S THE
SECOND STEP?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT
AFTER ALL I'VE
UNDERGONE, I'LL KEEP
ON. I'LL KNOW SOME-
DAY.

WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT
GUILTY OF ANYTHING?

OH, COME ON
TODD. WHY WOULD YOU
BE HERE IF YOU DONT
DO ANYTHING?

BECAUSE NONE OF MY
CHOICES IN LIFE ARE MY OWN
AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
FATE'S DOING.

THAT SOUNDS
LIKE AN EXCUSE
TO ME...

I THINK ITS
TRUE

FATE IS THE ONLY
WAY TO EXPLAIN WHY
GOD PUNISHES ME FOR
WHAT HE MAKES ME
DO.

OH, TODD, YOU TALK AS
IF GOD HATES YOU. SHE
DOESN'T HATE YOU.

THANK YOU FOR THE
RIDE. I SHOULD GO NOW.

GOOD LUCK TODD.
BE CAREFUL IN THE
NECROPOLIS.

TRY TO UNDERSTAND
THE TRUTH. IT WILL
SAVE YOU.

I'VE TRIED TO SAVE
MYSELF, BUT MYSELF
KEEPS SLIPPING AWAY.

THE NECROPOLIS SEEMED LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE FROM THE REAPER, MOLLY'S CHILDREN, AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT WAS HUNTING ME.



WELCOME
TO
DIS

HOW LONG HAS THAT
BUILDING BEEN BURNING...?

YOU ASK THAT LIKE THERE WAS
EVER A TIME WHEN IT WASN'T BURNING.

HEY, YOU
THERE!

HUH?

I JUST
ATE.

DON'T WORRY, I
WON'T BITE. BESIDES.

UM, CAN I HELP
YOU?

DID YOU KNOW THAT AFTER "FRIGHTENED
VIRGIN" THAT MOTHERFUCKER IS
GOING TO DO A STORY THAT ISN'T
EVEN AN ARC?

SOME BULLSHIT
ABOUT A RADIO SHOW.

FORGIVE THE ABSENCE
OF MY LOWER HALF. SHE'S
HUNGRY. HEHE.

SPEAKING OF THAT BITCH,
HER BIOLOGICAL CLOCK
IS TICKING, I CAN'T FUCK
HER ANYMORE, AND YOU'RE
DRESSED APPROPRIATELY.

NO THANKS. I'M DONE
NAILING FOLKS THAT
TALK LIKE YOU.

HA! I KNOW WHAT YOU
MEAN! I WISH I'D
NEVER DOUG HER EITHER!

ERR...DO YOU BELIEVE IN
FATE?

WHAT A GOD-DAMNED ODD THING TO ASK.
I SUPPOSE IT WASN'T FATE THAT LISA KILLED ME.
BUT HEY, MAYBE IT WAS FATE THAT I KILLED HER RIGHT
BACK.

HMM.

OR MAYBE YOU MEANT SOMETHING LIKE THE FACT
THAT THIS SCENE ONLY EXISTS TO FORESHADOW
SOME POLANSKI-ESQUE STORY HE'S WRITING.

WHAT?

NOTHING.

AH... IT APPEARS MY "BELOVED
LIFEMATE" IS FINISHED. YOU
OUGHT TO GO, NOW.

...WE'RE GETTING
HUNGRY AGAIN.

THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS
I FOUND A BOX TO LIVE OUT OF.

I WAS NEVER BORED,
UNFORTUNATELY.

THERE WAS
ALWAYS SOMETHING
TO WATCH.

AND THEN, ONE HATEFUL
DAY...

I GOT A ROOMMATE.

I TELL YA...
WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

NOT THESE SHADOWS, BUT
REAL PEOPLE, YA KNOW?

AT LEAST BOTH MY EYES MATCH
NOW... COURSE, NOW THEY'RE
BOTH DEAD.

YOU WERE A SOLDIER TOO,
RIGHT? A DOUGHBOY?

YES.

THEY CALLED
ME A BABYKILLER

ALTHOUGH HE WAS
YOUNGER, CLIFF WAS
THE CLOSEST
THING TO A
FRIEND I'VE
HAD SINCE I
FIRST BOARDED THE
TRAIN TO THE FRONT

WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?

WHO CARES.
YOU COMING
OUT OR WHAT?

OF COURSE I AM,
BUT ARE YOU
SURE IT'S SAFE?

NO, BUT I
HAVEN'T EATEN
IN SEVEN MONTHS
AND I SMELL
BREAKFAST.

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

THERE SHOULD BE PLEADING AND NEEDING AND BLEEDING
AND BREEDING AND FEEDING

TRYING & LYING, DEFYING,
DENYING, CRYING & DYING..

DAMMIT WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?!

WELL, I SEE
AB IS STILL
HERE.

THE END
IS
NEAR!
THE FASCOM
ARE COMING!

HMM...
SOMETHING'S...

RUN!

I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN!

WHAT?
WHAT?!

THE
'NAMS!!



THE 'NAMS, I LATER FOUND OUT, ARE A GROUP WHO ENJOYED AND PROFITED FROM WAR IN LIFE. I THINK I RECOGNIZED THE KNEZER.



RUNNING WAS A VERY GOOD IDEA.

THEY OCCASIONALLY TAKE OVER THE NECROPOLIS, SHOOTING AT ANYTHING THEY SEE. THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THEM IS FOR VINCE TO RELEASE HIS—

FUCKING SHIT...



TODD!

I REMEMBER THINKING
"IF I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS
HELL,

THE MARK HAS BEEN
MADE NOW"

TODD!

KEEP U-

UFF!!

SAY, WEREN'T YOU THE PRESIDENT
OF PATHMAKER PRODUCTS?

TODD!!
HELP ME!

I KNOW YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT
WALKING AWAY, BUT YOU BETTER
FUCKING HELP ME!

TODD!



WOW! THIS SURELY IS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION!

IF YOU'D ONLY WAITED ABOUT TWENTY YEARS TO DIE, YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THE ATOMIC BOMB.

THE WHAT?

WE LAID low until the NECROPOLIS RETURNED TO NORMAL...

AS NORMAL AS IT GETS.

WE HID OUT IN A PLACE CALLED
"THE OBLONG TOMB"

I LIVED THE FIRST PORTION OF MY LIFE
AS A HERO. A COP-TURNED-SOLDIER BUT
THE BATTLEFIELD IS WHERE I THINK I REALLY
DIED...

I LIVED THE REST OF
MY LIFE AS AN INSTRUMENT
OF VENGEANCE, FULL-KNOWING NO
MATTER HOW MUCH REVENGE
I GOT, IT'D NEVER BE
ENOUGH TO FILL ME UP.

I WONDER IF
THE YOUNGER ME
GOT TO HEAVEN.

WHAT WAS THE
WORLD LIKE
WHEN YOU WERE
THERE, TOO?

DARK... COLD... DECEPTIVE.

I MEAN, THEY HELD NOTHING BACK TELLING ME WHAT
TO EXPECT FROM HELL. BUT, THEY NEVER TOLD ME A
SMALL PORTION OF IT HAD SURFACED IN THE
TRENCH.

THERE IS NO GLORY IN
BATTLE

OF COURSE
NOT...

GLORY IS IN VICTORY! BECAUSE ONLY
THE VICTORS ARE LEFT TO TELL WHAT
WAS SO DAMNED GLORIOUS ABOUT IT!

WHAT DID YOU DO
TO GET SENT HERE, TODD?

WELL... DO YOU BELIEVE
IN FATE?

No.

WELL, I DO. I THINK WE'RE FORCED
INTO OUR ACTIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
BY DESTINY.

GIVEN THE CHOICE
WITHOUT DESTINY, I WOULDN'T
HAVE KILLED THOSE
CHILDREN —

...YOU KILLED
CHILDREN?

YES... BUT I
DIDN'T WANT TO. FATE,
YOU SEE? I WAS UNDER
ORDERS!

A REAL SOLDIER
KNOWS WHEN HIS ORDERS
ARE FULL OF
SHIT!!

THEY CALLED ME
AND MY FRIENDS
BABY KILLERS!!

BUT IT
WAS YOU!!

CLIFF, PLEASE! YOU
DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I UNDERSTAND. WE BOTH MIGHT'VE SOLD OUR SOULS
BUT YOU'RE THE WHORE WHO SOLD HIMSELF
CHEAP!

HMFF... YOU'RE NO
SOLDIER.

CLIFF... I--I SAVED
YOU.

AND NOW I'LL
RETURN THE FAVOR

I CAN SEE
WHAT YOUR
PUNISHMENT HERE IS.

GET
OUT.





I WAS LOOKING DOWN FROM THE OBLONG
TOMB.

FATE TOOK MY LAST
FRIEND.

WALKING OFF THE
EDGE WAS LOOKING GOOD.
MAYBE THIS TIME THE FALL
WOULD BE FATAL.

DON'T DO THAT. JACK
IS LOOKING FOR YOU.

YOU'RE AN ANGEL?

YES.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHY
GOD HATES SOLDIERS?

OH, TODD... THAT'S
NOT TRUE!

I KNOW.
I WAS A SOLDIER.

I WAS IN HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL
ARMED INFANTRY IN THE DAYS BEFORE
GUNS AND ARTILLERY.

BUT THEN, YOU
WERE IN THE DAYS
BEFORE UZIS, RPGS,
JETS, BARS, SAWS, LASERS,
POWER ARMOR, AND
PATHMAKERS.

I GUESS...
THERE'S SO
MUCH COMPLICATION.

I'LL BE CLEAR AS
SOON AS JACK GETS HERE

I DON'T WANT TO GO WITH JACK!

Look, I'VE DONE ALL I
CAN DO. CAN I PLEASE GO WITH
YOU?

TO HEAVEN? MAYBE
SOMEDAY... BUT NOT
NOW

DO ME
A FAVOR,
TODD...

DON'T RUN
ANYMORE

TODD...

THERE IS NO PLACE YOU
CAN GO, THERE IS NO PLACE
YOU CAN HIDE.

LET'S GO, TODD

.. AND WE WENT
WITHOUT MOVING.

SO...
WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

UNDERNEATH IT ALL. THE LOWEST POINT
OF ALL THINGS. THE NINTH CIRCLE.

THE NINTH CIR-
ISN'T THAT TH-
THE -

Yes

YOU SAID YOU WANTED
TO MEET THE MANAGEMENT.
SHE IS EXPECTING YOU.

No! Not HIM!

IT'S TOO LATE.
WE'RE HERE.

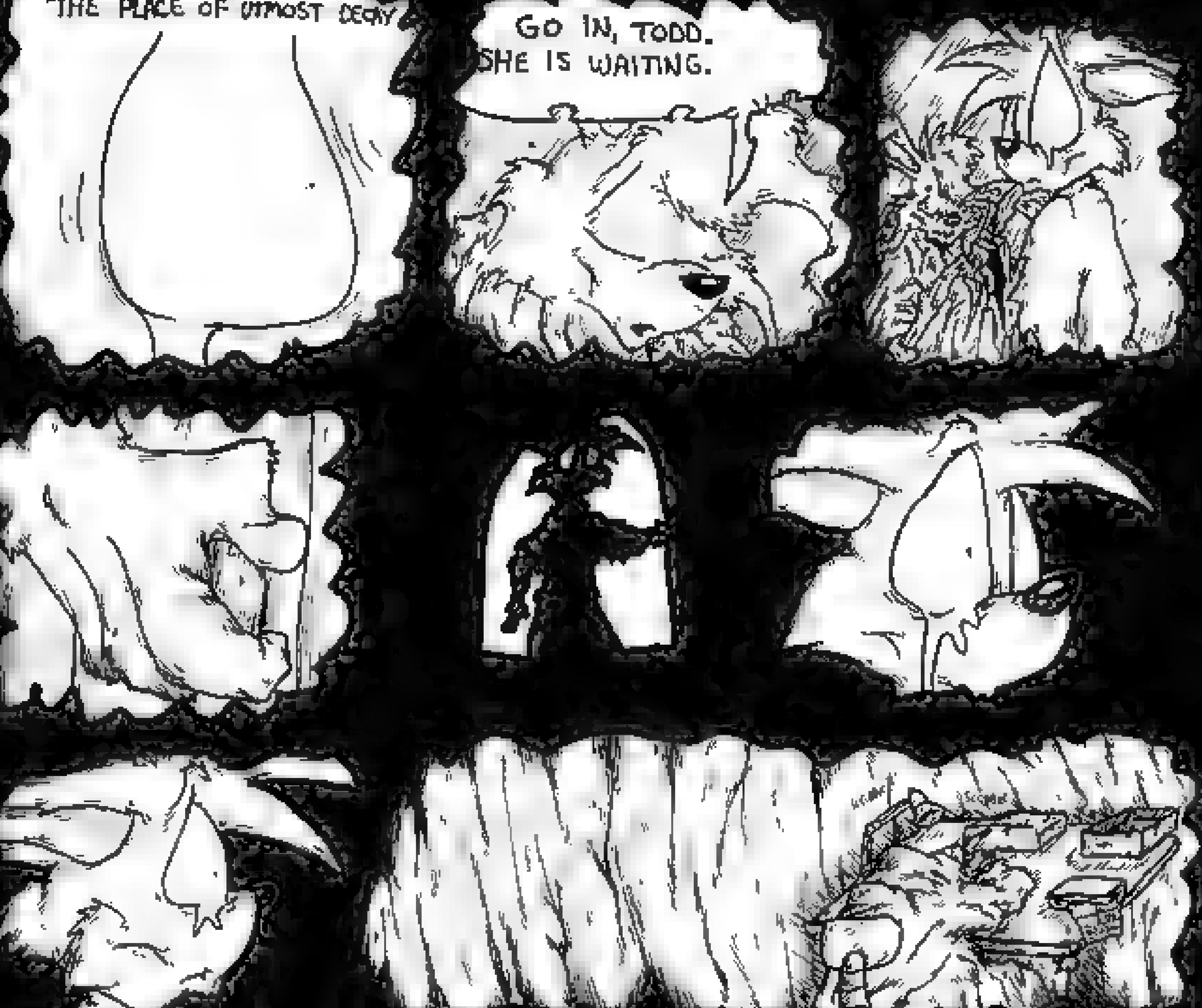
WHICH BRINGS US TO RIGHT NOW

666



THE PLACE OF UTMOST DECAY

GO IN, TODD.
SHE IS WAITING.



UH... ARE YOU
A CLERK OR SOMETHING?

SCR

NO... I'M WHO YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR. THE DEVIL.

THE—

SCRIBBLE

SCRIBBLE

SCRIBBLE

THERE ARE SOME PAGES
ON THE FLOOR, TODD.
COULD YOU BRING THEM
HERE?

HUH?!

I- IT'S--

ME!

HEHE
HEHE

...DO
YOU
LIKE
IT?

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...

WHA-WHAT!
THIS IS ME!
ALL OF IT!
HOW??

THE PAGES...?!

THE PAGES. RIGHT. THEY'RE
WHY I'M LOOKING LIKE AN
EARLY 2000 ARTIST.

I'M NOT OFFENDED THAT YOU
AIN'T FAMILIAR WITH HIS WORK.
HE ALWAYS DREW ME AS A SMOOTH
UPPITY FAIRY...

HOWEVER, IF IT
MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER
I CAN LOOK LIKE
SOMETHING MORE
TRADITIONAL.

...BETTER?

HUH?

OH, CALM
DOWN!

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE
ANY OF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO
MAKE SENSE...

THIS PLACE IS JUST A
BIG JOKE AT YOUR
EXPENSE.

...BUT, IF YOU'RE
REALLY NICE...

...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT
YA WANT TO HEAR.

IT WAS ME THE
WHOLE TIME!

YOU SEE?? IT'S JUST
WHAT YOU WANT. AN
EXCUSE! YOU WERE
NEVER BORN, YOU NEVER
LIVED, YOU NEVER KILLED
ANY CHILDREN. IT WAS
ALL ME!

BUT--- BUT---

BUT WHAT? THIS IS PERFECT!
BLAME ME!!

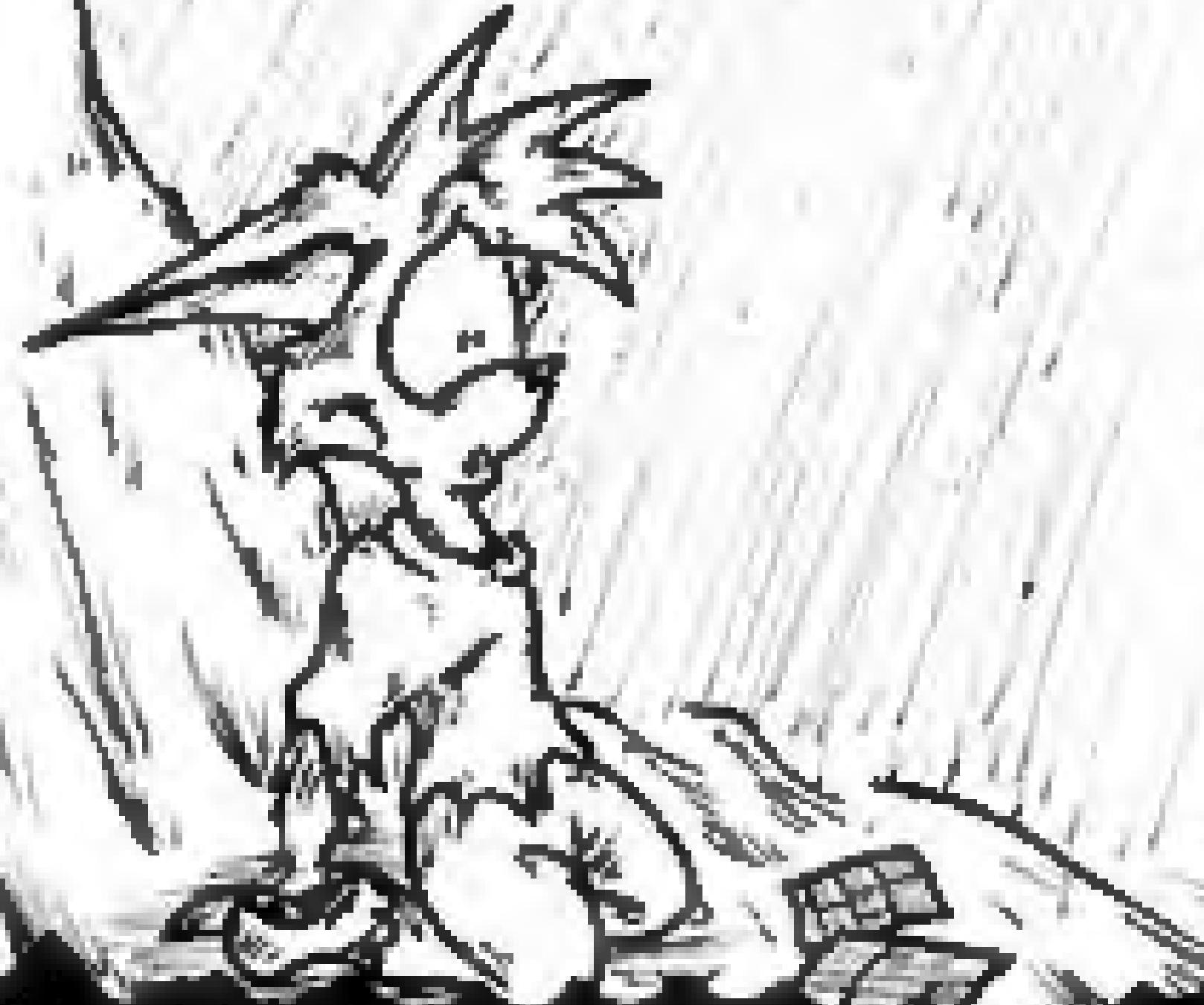
BUT YOU'RE
ME!!

HOLY SHIT, HE
GOT IT!!

NOT ME, NOT FATE,
NOT DESTINY. YOU!
YOU ARE THE REASON
YOU'RE HERE!

M-MY ORDERS....

WELL YES... I
MAY HAVE MADE
SUGGESTIONS, BUT
THE CHOICE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
YOURS



NO! NO!

Look! Look at
THIS!

THIS PAGE IS
HAPPENING NOW!

THAT'S NOTHING! I
GOT THE LAST PAGE
RIGHT HERE!

IT'S PROOF! FATE WAS
RULING MY LIFE ALL
THIS TIME...

FATE!
HA!

YOU'VE
BEEN TELLING
YOURSELF THAT
LIE ALL YOUR
LIFE.

AND YOUR PUNISHMENT
DOWN HERE...

...IS THAT THE
LIE IS NOW THE
TRUTH.

HEHE.... I CONTROL
YOU NOW, TODD.

Now, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED
TO GET BACK TO MY DESK. THERE ARE
MANY WAYS THAT "FATE" CAN BE CRUEL TO
YOU.



WAIT... IF MY LIFE IS A
COMIC, THEN WHO'S BEEN
READING THI-



w/ Thanks
for all the
music
to Trent and
his NIN



TTFN
08/24/03 01:16 PM
TO OBE MR. J.C. GURBERT
FOR ALL THE HELP
YOU'VE GIVEN ME.